GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1502
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
GRADES OF EDIBLE PRESERVATIVES
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have specified the grades of edible preservatives, levelling agents etc. for use in food stuff;

(b) if so, whether regular/surprise checks are being conducted to ascertain the adherence of these rules by food industries; and

(c) if so, the result of such checks conducted during the last two years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a): The manufacture and sale of preservatives are under the Compulsory Certification Scheme of the Bureau of Indian Standards. The Bureau of Indian Standard have prescribed the specifications of these products.

(b): The Bureau of Indian Standards has informed that they inspect the manufacturing premises in routine and make surprise visits to verify that the manufacturers are implementing the scheme of testing and inspection and testing the product as per the guidelines for licensing under the Bureau of Indian Standards Certification Mark Scheme.

The manufacturers of food products who use these preservatives and levelling agents are required to follow the PFA Rules, 1955.

(c): The data regarding number of visits, sample drawn and samples found failed and action taken by Bureau of Indian Standards for last three years is at Annexure .

ANNEXURE

Data regarding number of visits, sample drawn and samples found failing

IS No. with the Additives	Name of licences	No. of visits	No. of Samples drawn	Samples failed
4447	Sodium Benzene	1	6	10	2+
4448	Benzoic Acid	1	6	No production Since May, 1998	-
4751	Potassium Metabi Sulphite	1	8	7(One Test Report awaited)	Nil
4752	Sodium Metabi Sulphite	3//	16	20 (Three Test Reports awaited)	One#
5191	Sodium Algenate	/ Nil	6 -	6 (Two test reports awaited)	Nil -
4753	Potassium Nitrate	Nil	-		-
4818	Sorbic Acid				
5057	Potassium Nitrite	Nil Nil	- -	- -	- -
6030	Sodium Propionate				
6031	Calcium Propionate	4	25	38	2@

+ The firm was advised to stop using ISI mark and take corrective actions for rectification of the discrepancies. After verification of the corrective action the firm was permitted to resume marking.

// Firm had taken corrective action. One licensee had not initiated marking.

@ The failure has been communicated to the firm for investigating the failure and taking corrective actions. Corrective actions to be verified.